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PRESS RELEASE

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Top Industry Experts to Speak at Film Festival Event in Reading, PA next weekend

Breinigsville, Pennsylvania (Oct 18, 2024) – Film enthusiasts from all over will gather in Reading, PA next weekend to hear from professionals from all aspects of the film industry. The 3-day event is open to the public and [tickets are on sale now](#). Guests attending the Haydenfilms 5.0 Online Film Festival celebration will not only take in 25+ independent short films but will also have the opportunity to glean tips, advice, and lessons learned from award-winning actors,

cinematographers, and industry experts who are willing to share their knowledge. Independent filmmakers and film students – you don't want to miss this!

“Award-winning actor, Kevin Craig West, will join us for a session on Saturday. Aspiring actors will learn how to get auditions and land roles, hear about the pros and cons of working for indy companies vs. studios, and more,” said Hayden Craddolph, festival founder and executive producer. “Come with all of your questions ready!”

Nicole Shiner of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office will be on hand to discuss creative ways to get your film funded – from tax incentives to working through her office to apply for grants. Shiner will be joined by Los Angeles-based representatives from BondIt, a global leader in film, television, and media financing.

Renown cinematographer, Kyle Rudolph, will delve into the world of camera & cinematography as he takes his audience through the art of making motion pictures. Rudolph will partner with Red Star Pictures, who will have representatives on-site with a selection of their lighting, grip, cameras, lenses, and everything else needed on set or in the studio. Red Star has locations throughout the mid-west and along the east coast and will be giving away (2) \$500 gift certificates over the 3-day weekend.

Other workshops include “Bring Your Story to Life” with screenwriter Sarah McDermott; “In-the-Can to On-the-Screen – Getting your Film Distributed” with Dan Gurlitz; and “Behind the Lens: a filmmaker panel discussion” with filmmakers who've submitted to the HFI 5.0 Film Festival.

Attendees will be immersed in the world of film and connected with like-minded creatives during the 3 days of short film screenings, inspiring panel discussions, workshops, product demos, VIP red-carpet receptions, after parties, food, music, drink, and a closing reception where one filmmaker will be awarded a \$25,000 grand prize for Best Short Film.

“Just this week we announced the Top 4 short films who are in the running to win the \$25,000 grand prize,” Craddolph said. “The weekend will be packed with festivities, and I can't wait to announce the grand prize winner on Sunday evening and celebrate everyone's hard work at our awards reception.”

The Top 4 finalists include: “North Star” directed by PJ Palmer; “The Rose” directed by Hilary Comlian; “The Symphony of Hammers” directed by Marc Gurung; and “The Obituary of Jasper James” directed by Ryan Fenson-Hood.

The online portion of the film festival was powered by Cemboo, a new locally-funded Software as a Service (SaaS) company for managing, distributing and monetizing video content. Although the voting period of the online film festival has ended, film enthusiasts can, for a limited time, still [access the content](#) for as little as \$1.99. For more on using Cemboo to store and distribute your online content, visit cemboo.com.

Major sponsors of the Oct 25-27 event include: The O’Pake Institute at Alvernia University, Advantage Point Student Apartments, Networking 360 Connect, Diakon, Valley Networking 360, Center Gravity, Cemboo, The Theory of 5, and more.

Additional details and the weekend lineup are available at the Film Freeway [ticketing link](#) or on haydenfilmsinstitute.org. Tickets, including student rates, are available for purchase by the day or for the entire weekend.

Past Haydenfilms Online Film Festival winners:

- 1.0 Quinn Saunders "Fortunate Son"
- 2.0 John Burgess "The Powder Puff Principle"
- 3.0 Reda Mustafa "The Boot of War"
- 4.0 Johnny Ray Gill "My Turtle's Name is Dudley"

Past Haydenfilms Screenwriting Competition winners:

- 1.0 Quinton Buxton “The Revolving Door”

For full details on awards, prizes and eligibility requirements, please visit:
<https://filmfreeway.com/Haydenfilms>

ABOUT HAYDENFILMS INSTITUTE

Since 2001, Haydenfilms has been empowering filmmakers, writers, actors and producers through programs and competitions. In 2004, Haydenfilms hosted the world’s first online film festival and has been known since as a champion of independent filmmakers. Haydenfilms also functions as an institute, bringing educational opportunities to communities near and far.